

a cylindrical chute;

means for bending an elongated bag-making film into a tubular form around said chute and causing side edges of said film to be mutually overlapped;

a heater unit for longitudinally sealing said mutually overlapping side edges of said film;

an air cylinder for moving said heater unit between a sealing position at which said heater unit contacts said film and a retracted position at which said heater unit is separated from said chute;

control means for controlling compressive force with which said heater unit at said sealing position compresses said film against said chute, said control means controlling said compressive force according to characteristics of said film, said characteristics including one or more selected from the group consisting of thickness and material of said film;

air-pressure generating means for generating from a single air source having an initial air pressure both a higher air pressure for moving said heater unit and a lower air pressure, lower than said higher air pressure, for controlling said compressive force; and

switching means for selectively switching between supplying to said air cylinder said higher pressure to thereby move said heater unit with respect to said film and supplying to said air cylinder said lower pressure to thereby control said compressive force.

19. The packaging machine of claim 18 wherein said control means further serves to additionally supply said higher pressure to said air cylinder for a specified length of time while said lower pressure is being supplied to said air cylinder by said switching means.

20. The packaging machine of claim 18 wherein said air-pressure generating means includes a higher air-pressure generating means for generating said higher air pressure from said single air source and a lower air-pressure generating means for generating said lower air pressure from said single air source, and wherein said switching means serves to supply said higher